

Call to worship. Now it is time to wake out of sleep, for now is our salvation nearer than when we first believed.

Lord, have mercy upon us.
Lord, have mercy upon us.

Christ, have mercy upon us.
Christ, have mercy upon us.

Lord, have mercy upon us.
Lord, have mercy upon us.

ISAIAH 9:2 & 607. JOHN I:1-5 & 14
Advent wreath lighting;

We light the first candle for HOPE.

I wait for the Lord, my soul doth wait, and in His word do I hope.

My hope is built on nothing less than Jesus' blood and righteousness.

I dare not trust the sweetest frame, but wholly lean on Jesus name.

Prayer: Almighty and Everlasting God, who orderest all things in heaven and earth, and who didst make all ages a preparation for the coming of Thy Son; prepare us by Thy Holy Spirit for the coming of Him Whom Thou dost send, that we may behold His glory and receive the fulness of Thy blessing; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

merciful Father, who in thine infinite love hast given thy Son to take away our sin, hear our confession; absolve us from our guilt, and so renew us by thy Holy Spirit that we may henceforth live unto thee; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Prayer: (9:30)

Intercessional Hymn / 10

Call to worship
Unto Thee, O Lord, I lift up my soul: O my God

I trust in Thee; let me not be ashamed: let not mine enemies triumph over me; Yea, let those that wait on Thee

be ashamed. Show me Thy way, O Lord; teach me

Thy way.

Confession of sin

Acknowledgment of sin

Scripture Luke 1: 26 - 35

Gloria Patri

Apostles Creed

Prayer and Response *LE CHOR*

Offering, Response, Prayer

Choir Anthem

Announcements

MEET WITH CONSISTENT PRES OR RUHINI ELPER

ENVELOPES FOR GREENVILLE HOME

LAPINS AID IS TAKING COLLECTION FOR GREENVILLE

MRS LENA ORCHMAN IS IN CHARGE

CONSIST. ~~7:30~~ 7:30 TOMORROW EVENING

Hymn 86

Prayer and Response

Hymn 97

Prayer

Threefold Amen

Call to Worship:

Now it is time to wake out of sleep, for now
is our salvation nearer than when we first
believed.

Lord, have mercy upon us.

Lord, have mercy upon us.

Christ, have mercy upon us.

Christ, have mercy upon us.

Lord, have mercy upon us.

Lord, have mercy upon us.

) light our first candle for HOPE. For unto us
a child is born, unto us a Son is given.

My hope is built on nothing less than Jesus' blood
and righteousness.

I dare not trust the sweetest frame, but wholly
lean on Jesus' name.

*. John. Election (11:30)

*Psalm

*Hymn 384

*Call to Worship

Into Thee, O Lord, I lift up, my soul: O my God

I trust in Thee; let me not be ashamed: let not mine

enemies triumph over me: yes let those that wait on

Thee be ashamed. Show me Thy ways, O Lord: teach me

Thy paths.

*Confession of Sin

*Assurance of Pardon

*Responsive Reading #1 Page 555

Hymn 93

*Scripture Luke 1: 26 - 35

*Gloria Patri

*Apostles Creed

*Prayer and Responses

Choir Anthem

Offering, Ave, Once, Prayer

Announcement

MEET WITH SUNDAY PREL OR ROLLING ELDER

CHAIN PRACTICE 7:15 WED.

*Hymn 97

*Cantor

*Prayer and Lord's Prayer

*Hymn 126

*Benediction

*Threefold Amen

2, 3, 4

TRINITY CHARGE--THE UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST
Ralph C. Link, Pastor

Trinity Church, New Bloomfield 9:00 A.M.
Christ Church, Duncannon 10:30 A.M.

THE ORDER OF WORSHIP November 29, 1970

The Organ Prelude

*The Hymn of Praise

91

*The Call to Worship

Almighty and everlasting God, we know you forgive the sins of all those who are penitent; Create and make in each one of us new and contrite hearts, that we worthily lamenting our sins and acknowledging our wretchedness, may obtain of you, the God of all mercy, perfect remission, and forgiveness; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

*The Kyrie

*The Assurance of Pardon

The Scripture---Luke 1:26-35 LUKE 2:8-20

*The Gloria Patri

97

*Hymn

The Pastoral Prayer

Announcements

The Receiving of Tithes and Offerings

*The Doxology

*The Offering Prayer and Lord's Prayer

Advent Wreath Lighting

The Hymn of Meditation 92

The Sermon---Advent Revelation:

"To The Shepherds"

The Sermon Prayer

*The Hymn of Response

88

*The Benediction

*The Threefold Amen

*The Postlude

*Denotes Congregation Standing

GENERAL ANNOUNCEMENTS

We want to thank everyone who helped or participated in any way with the family advent wreath fellowship. Those of you who were not there missed out on a very rewarding experience. We hope you will make plans to join with us next year in this service.

THE FAMILY WREATH PRAY

TRINITY CHURCH ANNOUNCEMENTS

A congregational Christmas dinner will be held next Sunday Dec. 6 at 6:30 P.M. An offering will be taken to go to the Perry County Child Care Service.

CHRIST CHURCH ANNOUNCEMENTS

Next Sunday Dec. 6th we will meet at the church at 1:00 P.M. to decorate the church. The women of the church will place the "Chrismens" on the Christmas tree. We will have ice cream and cookies later. Come and join us. ~~WE~~ ~~DEFINITE~~ WITH US.

WE ~~THANK~~ ESPECIALLY THANK ~~MRS. GEORGE ACKERBAUGH~~

MRS. GEORGE ACKERBAUGH

MRS. ROY SNYDER

FOR BEAUTIFUL ADVENT WREATHS

1st Sunday of Advent

Text.; Luk. 1:11.

Today is the first Sunday in Advent and although we have heard the story of the "Good News" many times there are some points and legends concerning this birth that perhaps some of us have never heard before. Therefore for the next three Sundays of Advent our sermons shall be concerned with some different information. At least I hope that it is new to most of us. These sermons shall be divided into three categories. ADVENT REVELATION Today we shall be concerned with where Christ was born and the shepherds who were the first to see this child. ADVENT REVELATION: TO THE SHEPHERDS Next Sunday we shall be concerned with the Magi or the three wise men. The following Sunday we shall deal with the events surrounding Herod. These are the three main events that touched the early life of this child.

Christ was born in Bethlehem which was a little town located six miles to the south of Jerusalem. The ancient name of Bethlehem was Ephrath or Ephrata. The name Bethlehem is taken from two Hebrew words which mean, "The House of Bread", which was very appropo since it stood in a very fertile countryside. It is rather ironic that Christ should be born in a place which means, "House of Bread." Many times during his ministry He spoke of bread. He said, "Man shall not live by bread alone," and on another occasion He said, "I am the bread of heaven." He also took a few loaves of bread and it was enough to feed a large multitude of people. When He ate what we refer to as, "The Last Supper", He took bread and when He had given thanks He broke it and said, take eat this is My body which is broken for you, this do in remembrance of Me. So then bread becomes symbolic for us. Because it becomes the symbol of Christ's broken body. ~~At this time~~ Bethlehem, the town was situated high on a grey limestone ridge which was more than 2500 feet high. The houses in Bethlehem are built on the slopes of this limestone ridge and it was a common practice for them to have a cave hollowed out below the house which was used as a stable. Now here is where the Biblical story and what we have pictured in our minds differ. Most of us think of a

stable as a wooden structure of some sort such as we see around here on a farm. But it could very well have been a cave where Christ was born. To this day such a cave is shown as the birthplace of Christ. The cave is located in Bethlehem and the Roman Catholic Church of the Nativity is built above it. This particular cave has been shown as the birthplace of Christ for a very long time. The Roman Emperor Hadrian built a shrine to the heathen god Jove above it to desecrate the place. But when the empire became Christian, the first Christian Emperor Constantine built a great Church there and it is the Church that still stands there today. A man named H. V. Morton tells of visiting this Church. "He said he came to a great wall and in the wall there was a door, which was so low even a dwarf would have to stoop to enter it.; and through the door and on the other side of the wall was the Church. Beneath the high altar of the church there is a cave. When the pilgrim descends into it he finds a little dark cavern about fourteen yards long and four yards wide lit by fifty three silver lamps; and in the floor there is a star and around it a Latin inscription: Here Jesus Christ was born of the Virgin Mary."

This brings us to the shepherds and why did God choose to reveal the birth of His Son to them? We can't answer this question, because we cannot fathom the workings of God. But still we ponder this question because of the commonness of these men. To be a shepherd was no great distinction by any stretch of the imagination. Comparing it with the occupations of today it would probably ~~be comparable~~ ^{BE COMPARABLE} to the work of a laborer. It required no real talent. About the only thing it did require was a love of being outdoors and a love for animals such as sheep. But while we are pondering this we must also ask the question who did Christ minister to? Was it the wealthy? Did he rub elbows with the high society, or hob nob with all the socially prominent people? No. It was to the poor and needy that He ministered. It was the poverty stricken and the outcasts and those rejected by society that He helped. Therefore it is logical that He should be revealed to the common people such as the shepherds. Imagine for a moment the surprise it must have been for these men. Just picture in:

your mind how this happened and came about. Here are a group of men, sitting on the hillside watching their flocks of sheep. which reminds me of an article printed in the Readers Digest several years ago. It told some of the humorous incidents dealing with children at Christmas. The one incident involved a class of children in which the teacher instructed them to draw a picture having something to do with Christmas. She walked around the room looking at each child's paper until she came to this one little boy. She couldn't figure what it was he drew. The picture looked like a fat baby. When she asked if this was the Christ-child he replied, "No it's round John Virgin like we sing about in 'Silent Night'." The incident involving the shepherds also happened in a classroom. The class was singing a Christmas carol, but the teacher detected strange words being sung by someone. So she walked around the room as they sang it again. She found the young lad and asked him to repeat the words. He was singing, "While shepherds watched their flocks by night, instead of while shepherds watched their flocks by night." But this job of watching sheep got pretty lonely especially during the long hours of darkness. So it was customary for several shepherds to combine their flocks and graze them all together. This not only made it easier because there were several men to look after the sheep, but it also provided them with companionship. So it was on this memorable night when suddenly there appeared before them an angel and they were surrounded by light. They were told that the Messiah had come in the form of a baby. At first they were terrified. But when the angel reassured them their curiosity was aroused. So they came to see this Messiah. Think of the joy it must have been to these men to see this baby and realize that He was the long awaited Messiah. We are not told of ~~the~~ ^{OF} nationality ~~of~~ these men ~~are~~, but they were probably Jewish. If this were the case they were looking forward to the coming of the Messiah as everyone else was. It is also significant to point out that Christ identified Himself with shepherds several times during His ministry. He said, "I am the good shepherd." He told His disciples to feed His sheep making reference to Himself as a shepherd. He also told a parable of a shepherd going out and look-

ing for one sheep that was lost. Now after these men saw this baby we are told that they returned glorifying and praising God for what they had heard and seen. Isn't this the typical reaction? When any one of us hears good news we can't wait to pass it on to our friends. Today we have the telephone to do this and we don't have to go out in the highways and byways to spread our good news. But we too should be spreading this "Good News" of Christ. Most of us could say that we belong in the class of these shepherds. It's true we don't watch sheep, but most of us are working people such as they were.

This "Good News" is being brought to us once again as it is every year. Will we come to pay homage to Him and return to our homes and our everyday lives and remain silent? Or will we join with the shepherds glorifying and praising God?

One of the verses of the carol "O Little Town of Bethlehem" tells of this wonderful birth in the most appropriate way.

How silently, how silently
The wondrous gift is given!
So God imparts to human hearts
The blessings of His heaven.
No ear may hear His coming;
But in this world of sin,
Where meek souls will receive Him still,
The Dear Christ enters in.

May Christ enter into our hearts this day. Let us pray.